

REVISED: 5/18/88

SHINING TIME STATION

EPISODE # 6
"FAITH, HOPE AND ANXIETY"

BY BRIAN MCCONNACHIE

REVISED ~~5/14/88~~

From characters and series storyline
created by Britt Allcroft and
Rick Siggelkow

(FADIN: THE STATION. IN RUSH MATT AND TANYA. THEY HAVE HATS AND BACKPACKS. THROUGH THE FROSTED GLASS, WE SEE THE TRAIN PULLING IN.)

TANYA:

Grandpa, grandpa...

(THEY BOTH RUN TO HIS WORKSHOP DOOR. HE OPENS THE DOOR. THEY EACH GRAB A HAND AND PULL HIM TOWARD THE TRAIN.)

TANYA: (CONTD):

Come on, come on, we're going to miss the train.

HARRY:

Whoa, hold on. Now what's this about? Miss what train?

MATT:

You said you'd take us fishing today.

TANYA:

You promised. You promised.

HARRY:

(REMEMBERING)

So I did, didn't I?

(TEASING THEM)

Are you sure it was today?

TANYA:

Yes, yes, come on. We're going to miss the train.

HARRY:

Okay...let me get some of essentials here... Can't go fishing without the right equipment.

(HE DUCKS INTO HIS OFFICE. THEY RUN TO THE PLATFORM EXIT. IN COMES STACY. SHE IS CARRYING PACKAGES AND MAIL.)

MATT:

Harry is taking us fishing.

(STACY SHOWS A CONCERNED LOOK.)

TANYA:

Come on Grandpa, come on...

(HARRY EMERGES WITH TACKLE BOX AND FISHING ROD AND SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.)

HARRY:

Oops, forgot one thing.

(OPENS THE DOOR, REACHES IN AND HAS THE BIG "GONE FISHING" SIGN WHICH HE PROUDLY HANGS ON HIS DOOR.)

(HE HUSSLES TOWARDS THE PLATFORM.)

HARRY:

Hello there, Stacy. Why the long face? Cheer up, we'll bring you back some fish.

STACY:

(GLUM)

There's a problem down the line.

(THE KIDS EXIT. HE PAUSES.)

HARRY:

What's the trouble?

EXTRA: (V.O.) (TBA)

A11111111 Aboard!!!!!!

STACY:

A broken signal and the express
train is due.

(STACY HOLDS UP A SIGNAL ARM.)

TANYA: (O.S.)

(CALLING FROM PLATFORM):

Come on. Come on.

MATT: (O.S.):

(CALLING FROM PLATFORM)

The train's pulling out.

HARRY:

That is serious.

(HARRY TAKES THE SIGNAL FROM HER. THE
KIDS REAPPEAR.)

BOTH:

COME-ON!!!!

HARRY:

The arm that moves the signal
has broken clean off.

(THE PROBLEM HAS CAPTURED ALL OF HIS ATTENTION. HE STARTS TO HEAD BACK TO HIS OFFICE. THE KIDS ARE STUNNED. THE TRAIN STARTS TO PULL OUT. HARRY SNAPS OUT OF IT. HE TURNS TO THE KIDS.)

HARRY:

Kids, I'm real sorry. But we have a real problem here and you know the saying: work before play.

TANYA:

(FRUSTRATED)

But you already worked. And we're not going to play, we're going to fish!

(HARRY FEELS THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT)

HARRY:

Hay, hay, hay. It won't take that long. We can catch the train to Twiddly Junction and switch to the express to Lucky Lake. Cheer up, the fish will still be there.

(HE EXITS INTO THE WORKSHOP. THE KIDS FLOP DOWN ON A BENCH. THEY'RE NOT BUYING HARRY'S LINE ABOUT CATCHING THE NEXT TRAIN. STACY COMES OVER.)

STACY:

Matt? Tanya? I know you wanted to go fishing, but Harry has important responsibilities. You have responsibilities, jobs that you do, don't you?

TANYA:

I have to set the table.

MATT:

I have to take out the garbage...
but Harry promised he'd take us
fishing.

STACY:

Well, if Harry promised you then
I'm sure you'll go. Harry keeps
his promises.

(BRIGHTENING)

Oh I almost forgot. There's a
package that came addressed to both
of you. And a letter for Tanya.

MATT AND TANYA:

A package?

STACY:

I left it on the information desk.

(THE KIDS RUN OVER TO THE INFORMATION
DESK. MATT TAKES THE PACKAGE. THIS IS
A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO HIM. MATT PLACES
IT BETWEEN HIMSELF AND TANYA AND OPENS
IT. HE REMOVES THE TOP OF THE BOX.
THEY LOOK IN. THERE, IN R.I.P., REPOSE,
IS MR. C. HE SUDDENLY SITS UP.)

MR. C:

Hello Tanya, Hello Matt.

TANYA:

How did you get in there?

MR. C.:

I climbed in. Then I shipped myself to you. I wanted to see how the mails are running. And I'm here to report they're running bumpy. But they're running on time I'm quite pleased to report.

(MR. C. TAKES A SECOND LOOK AT THE KIDS AND SEES THEY ARE PRETTY GLUM.)

MR. C.: (CONT'D)

Weren't you both going fishing with Harry?

MATT:

(POUTY)

Harry was supposed to take us.

TANYA:

And now he's working.

MR. C.:

So, left behind at the station, Are you? That reminds me of a conductor friend of mine on. On the Island of Sodor. I'll tell you what: You both look in great need of some fun. For a cure of the

HARRY:

frowns I know one. I'll tell you a story that ends hunky-dory. If there's a grin on you chin when I'm done.

(THEY SMILE AND AGREE)

MR. C (CONTD):

So come with me now...etc...

(DISSOLVINTVTPB: THOMAS EPISODE # 11)

(DISSOLVBACTO: MAINSET.
(THE STORY DID NOTHING TO CHEER THEM UP.
THEY STILL HAVE THE SAME LONG FACES.)

MR. C.:

So have a little patience with Harry. Who knows, you might be off fishing before you know it.

(THEY ARE STILL NOT BUYING IT.)

MR. C.: (CONTD)

Unless you cheer up, I'm going to get back in this box and mail myself to Koola LaGumba.

MATT:

Where's that?

MR.C.:

I have no idea...But I'm sure the kids there are a lot cheerier than you two.

TANYA:

(SUDDENLY GETTING AN IDEA)

Will you take us fishing?

MR. C.:

If your grandpa said he'd take you

I'm sure he will...

TANYA:

He's always so busy.

(MR. C. JUMPS DOWN TO THE FLOOR.)

MR. C.:

He's a hard worker, a good

railroad man. Have faith in him.

(MR. C. WALKS ACROSS THE STATION TO THE MURAL. THE KIDS FOLLOW.)

MR. C. (CONT'D):

...Now if you'll both excuse me, I
have a very important matter to
attend to myself.

MATT:

What?

MR. C.:

Lunch.

(GOES INTO SWITCHHOUSE.)

MATT:

Hey. I have an idea. Why don't we
help Harry so he'll finish sooner.

TANYA:

Great idea.

(THEY RUSH TO WORKSHOP, HARRY COMES OUT)

TANYA AND MATT:

Are you finished?

Are you finished?

HARRY:

Not yet.

MATT:

What can we do?

TANYA:

We're here to help you.

HARRY:

Do either of you have a number

3 hex key wrench?

(THEY SHAKE THEIR HEADS NO.)

HARRY: (CONT'D)

Then you can't help. I have to run
to the hardware store.

(HARRY HEADS TOWARD EXIT AND CALLS BACK
TO KIDS.)

HARRY: (CONT'D)

Now, don't worry. I'll be back in
15 minutes.

(THEY CONSIDER THIS NEW INFORMATION FOR
A MOMENT. THEN RUN TO STACY AT THE
INFORMATION DESK.)

TANYA:

When is the next train?

(STACY CHECKS SCHEDULE.)

STACY:

The next train is in 12 minutes and
that's the last train for ...two
hours. Except for the Fireball
Express and that doesn't even slow
down for our station.

(MATT AND TANYA WALK AWAY)

TANYA:

I knew it. He's never going to
take us fishing.

MATT:

You can't depend on grownups

TANYA:

They're always too busy.

(STACY REGARDS THEIR DILEMMA. THE KIDS
BOTH PLOP DOWN ON THE WAITING BENCH
AGAIN.)

TANYA:

He won't get back in time.

MATT:

We'll have to sit here all
afternoon. With nothing to do!

(STACY COMES OVER.)

TANYA:

Stacy, can you take us fishing?

STACY:

I can't leave the station. But
I'll tell you what I will do, I'll
point out the bright side.

MATT:

What bright side?

STACY:

Well...if you were gone fishing,
you'd never get to see what's down
the Anything Tunnel.

(CUTO: ANYTHING TUNNEL.)
(VTPE: MUSIC VIDEO: A PIECE ON THE
BRIGHTER SIDE OF THINGS.)

(CUBACTO: MAINSET)

STACY:

There's too much in life going on
to let one thing get you down. You
know what my granny used to say?

(THEY SHAKE THEIR HEADS NO ABRUPTLY)

STACY: (CONT'D)

"...Snap out of it!

(THEY LAUGH. STACY EXITS. KIDS SPOT
MR. C. AND GO OVER TO STATION HOUSE.)

(CUTO: MR. C. COMING OUT ON HIS
PLATFORM, PATTING HIS FULL TUMMY.)

TANYA:

Mr. Conductor, what time is it?

(HE TAKES OUT HIS BATH-TUB PLUG, LOOKS AT IT, THEN AT THE BIG CLOCK.)

MR. C.:

It's five minutes before the hour. Precisely.

TANYA:

He's never going to make it.

MATT:

And we won't go fishing.

MR. C.:

You wouldn't be the first. Thomas had his eye on that particular activity for a while. He wanted to go as much as you do.

MATT:

Thomas is a train engine.

MR. C.:

That's what the other train engines said, but...why should that stop him? I had better tell you the story...so come with me now...

(DISSOLVINTVTFB: THOMAS EPISODE # 12.)

(DISSOLVBACTO: STATION HOUSE)

MR. C.:

Maybe the fish you would have
caught would block your feed pipe.

TANYA:

At least Thomas had a chance with
fish. We're going to be stuck
here... what time is it now?

(MR. C. CHECKS HIS PLUG.)

MR. C.:

It's one minute before the hour.

TANYA:

I knew he wouldn't make it.

MATT:

And we're never going to go
fishing.

MR. C.:

What happened to all you faith in
Harry? And where's your hope?

TANYA:

What's the good of hoping for
something when you know it isn't
going to happen?

MR. C.:

How do you know what can happen?
Shut your eyes. Both of you.

(THEY SHUT THEIR EYES.)

-(MORE)-

MR. C.: (CONT'D)

I'm going to send a train right
through your imaginations.

(CUTSPFX: MR. C.'S MAGIC BUBBLES
WITH VTPB: RED BALL EXPRESS.)(A.F.)

(CUBACTO: STATION HOUSE)

MR. C.:

Now open your eyes...See anything
can happen. Maybe the train'll
be late.

(SFX: DISTANT WHISTLE AND TRAIN NOISE
GROWING LOUDER.).

(THE KIDS GO TO PLATFORM ENTRANCE. THE
TRAIN PULLS IN.)

(CUTO: MR. C. CHECKING HIS PLUG.)

MR. C.:

(TO HIMSELF)

Nope, it's right on time.

(CUTO: KIDS AT PLATFORM ENTRANCE.)

MATT:

Do you see him?

TANYA:

No.

(THEY DROP BACK INTO THEIR FUNK AND
SLOUCH TOWARDS THE SEATS. SLIP OFF
THEIR BACKPACKS AND TAKE OFF THEIR HATS.
THEY HAVE FINALLY ACCEPTED DEFEAT. IN
COMES STACY.)

STACY:

Any sign of Harry?

(THEY BOTH SHAKE THEIR HEADS NO.)

STACY: (CONT'D)

That's too bad.

(SHE STARTS TO SORT THROUGH MAIL)

STACY: (CONT'D)

Say, what was that letter you got?

TANYA:

I forgot all about it.

(TANYA REMEMBERS THE ENVELOPE SHE RECEIVED. GET IT, OPENS IT.)

TANYA: (CONT'D)

It's from my pen pal in Mool

Landing.

STACY:

You write to her and she writes
to you?

TANYA:

Sometimes we send each other
pictures.

(SHE OPENS IT AND IT'S A BIG COLORFUL
DRAWING.)

MATT:

Wow!

STACY:

Isn't that nice? Do you think you
could do something like that?

(STACY HANGS IT UP ON THE BULLETIN
BOARD.)

TANYA:

I don't know.

STACY:

Why don't you give it a try?

There is paper in one of those
drawers. You do one too, Matt.

(KIDS GO TO GET MATERIALS.)

(FREEZE FRAME OF THEIR PICTURES GROWING.
THEY BEGIN TO TAKE PLEASURE. THEY NOD
APPROVINGLY AT THEIR OWN WORK. AND EACH
OTHER'S WORK.)

(CUTO: ENTRANCE. IN BOUNCES SCHEMER
PASSING BY THE BOOTH.)

SCHEMER:

Good day Miss Jones. I trust all
your good passengers have been
having a fine time with my
wonderful machines?

(STACY SHAKES HER HEAD IN COMIC
DISBELIEF AT HIS ATTITUDE. HE GOES TO
THE ARCADE WHERE THE KIDS ARE ON THE
FLOOR WORKING.)

-(MORE)-

SCHEMER (CONTD):

...Here, what's this? Get off the floor! You're blocking the way for the customers who want to put money in my machines.

TANYA:

What customers?

SCHEMER:

There aren't any customers because you're blocking the way... What is that you're drawing?

(HE LOOKS IN TO EXAMINE THE WORKS.)

SCHEMER (CONTD):

...say, that's not bad. It's nothing to shout about, but it's not bad.

(HE HAS AN IDEA. HE SLAPS HIS HANDS.)

SCHEMER (CONTD):

Hey, I'll tell you what, write "Come to Schemer's Machines" across these drawings and I'll pin them to your shirts and you both go walking up and down the platform. Where people can see you. It'll be great advertising.

TANYA:

I don't think so...

SCHEMER:

Hey, don't think I'm going to ask
you to do this for nothing.
There's a reward in it for you.

MATT:

What's the reward?

SCHEMER:

I'll pat you on the head. A real
nice pat. One of my best. Maybe
even chortle you under the chin.

Hey, I don't do that to
everybody...

(CUTO: ENTER HARRY)

HARRY:

I'm back. I have the part. It's
all fixed.

(HE GOES TO KIDS.)

TANYA:

(POUTY)

Swell.

MATT:

Great.

HARRY:

Come on. Get your stuff, let's go,

TANYA:

We missed the train, Grandpa.

HARRY:

Nonsense, I've never missed a train in my life.

(HARRY GOES TO HIS WORKSHOP AND GETS HIS FISHING GEAR. HE HUSSLES BACK TOWARDS THE EXIT.)

HARRY (CONT'D):

...come on you two. Are you coming fishing or aren't you?

TANYA:

There are no more trains, Grandpa.

(HE STEPS UP IN EXIT PLATFORM.)

HARRY:

Is that so? Then what do you call that?

(HARRY POINTING.)

(SFX: VERY LOUD DISTANT TRAIN SOUNDS.)
(THE KIDS GO TO THE EXIT.)

MATT:

What is it?

(STACY COMES UP.)

STACY:

That, children, is the Fireball Express. The only time you ever see it is at 80 miles per hour.
Why's it stopping here?

HARRY:

Because it's going to take us
fishing, that's why. Now come on
kids, get your stuff.

(THEY GRAB THEIR GEAR.)

STACY:

How did you know it was going to
stop here?

(HE HOLDS UP THE REPAIRED PART.)

HARRY:

The Fireball Express isn't going
80 miles per hour anywhere without
this...Hurry up, you two, you don't
want to miss the train, do you?

not
explained
well enough
why not
lets

(CUTO: INT. JUKEBOX)

TEX:

Have you ever been fishin' Rex?

REX:

Never have, Tex, maybe we should
all go fishin'.

TITO:

No way man. Most fish are bigger
than we are. And instead of
pulling them out, they could pull
us in!

REX:

I have an idea. Let' never go
fishin'!

TEX:

Fine with me. I'm happy
here...let's do some pickin'.

GRACE:

The boss is out there and he hates
us playing for free.

DIDI:

Like we can play something real
fast...

ALL:

The Wabash Cannonball...one...two
...three...

(MUSIC: PUPPESONG: "THE WABASH
CANNONBALL")

(CUTO: EXT. JUKEBOX. SCHEMER IS
STARTLED.)

SCHEMER:

Hey...who put money in there? No
one put money in there...stop
playing...This place is crazy.

(STACY AT THE EXIT WAVING. MR. C. AT
THE MURAL WAVING.)

(CREDITS. FADE.)